case or class of cases. As a consequence thereof, no such data is maintained by this Department. However, a set of additional courts, known as Fast Track courts have been set up for speeding up disposal of long pending cases including cases of atrocities against women on priority.

Benches of High Courts

†3865. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain benches of some of the High Courts in the country are not functioning.

(b) if so, the number of such benches, High Court-wise, as on date;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have received memoranda/ requests in the past for setting up benches of some of the High Courts in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the High Court benches for which requests to restart have been received by Government; and

(f) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Requests for setting up benches of some of the High Courts are received from time to time. In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expedience and desirability of establishment of a Bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench.

The question of opening a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government in the light of these principles and criteria as and when a proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.